

[No Report.]

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

APRIL 6, 1852.

Mr. ORR, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported the following bill; which was read twice and committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

A BILL

Granting the right of way and making a grant of land to the States of Arkansas and Missouri, to aid in the construction of a railroad from a point on the Mississippi, opposite the mouth of the Ohio river, via Little Rock, to the Texas boundary near Fulton, in Arkansas, with branches to Fort Smith and the Mississippi river.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Repre-*
2 *sentatives of the United States of America in Congress*
3 *assembled,* That the right of way through the public lands
4 be, and the same is hereby granted to the States of Arkan-
5 sas and Missouri, for the construction of a railroad from
6 a point on the Mississippi river, opposite the mouth of the
7 Ohio, in the State of Missouri, via Little Rock, to the
8 Texas boundary line near Fulton, in Arkansas, with
9 branches from Little Rock, in Arkansas, to the Missis-
10 sippi river and to Fort Smith, in said State, with the right

11 to take necessary materials of earth, stone, timber, etc., for
 12 the construction thereof: *Provided*, That the right of way
 13 shall not exceed one hundred feet on each side of the length
 14 thereof, and a copy of the survey of said road, made under
 15 the direction of the legislatures of the said States, shall
 16 be forwarded to the proper local land offices respectively,
 17 and to the General Land Office at Washington city, within
 18 ninety days after the completion of the same.

1 **SECT. 2.** *And be it further enacted*, That there be, and
 2 is hereby granted to the States of Arkansas and Missouri,
 3 respectively, for the purpose of aiding in making the railroad
 4 and branches aforesaid, within their respective limits, every
 5 alternate section of land designated by even numbers, for
 6 six sections in width on each side of said road and
 7 branches; but in case it shall appear that the United States
 8 have, when the line or route of said road is definitely fixed
 9 by the authority aforesaid, sold any part of any section
 10 hereby granted, or that the right of pre-emption has at-
 11 tached to the same, then it shall be lawful for any agent
 12 or agents, to be appointed by the Governor of said State,
 13 to select, subject to the approval aforesaid, from the lands
 14 of the United States most contiguous to the tier of sec-
 15 tions above specified, so much land in alternate sections
 16 or parts of sections as shall be equal to such lands as the
 17 United States have sold, or to which the right of pre-emp-

18 tion has attached as aforesaid, which lands being equal in
 19 quantity to one-half of six sections in width on each side
 20 of said road, the States of Arkansas and Missouri shall
 21 have and hold to and for the use and purpose aforesaid:
 22 *Provided*, That the lands to be located shall in no case
 23 be further than fifteen miles from the line of the road:
 24 *And Provided further*, That the lands hereby granted
 25 shall be applied in the construction of said road, and shall
 26 be disposed of only as the work progresses, and shall be
 27 applied to no other purpose whatsoever: *And provided*
 28 *further*, That any and all lands reserved to the United
 29 States by any act of Congress, for the purpose of aiding
 30 in any object of internal improvement, or in any manner
 31 for any purpose whatsoever, be and the same are hereby
 32 reserved to the United States from the operation of this
 33 act, except so far as it may be found necessary to locate
 34 the routes of the said railroad and branches through such
 35 reserved lands.

1 SECT. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the sec-
 2 tions and parts of sections of land which by such grant
 3 shall remain to the United States within six miles on each
 4 side of said road, shall not be sold for less than double
 5 the minimum price of the public lands when sold.

1 SECT. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the said lands
 2 hereby granted to the said States shall be subject to the

3 disposal of the legislatures thereof, for the purposes aforesaid
 4 and no other; and the said railroad and branches shall be
 5 and remain a public highway for the use of the government
 6 of the United States, free from toll or other charge upon
 7 the transportation of any property or troops of the United
 8 States.

1 SECT. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That the lands
 2 hereby granted to said States shall be disposed of by said
 3 States only in manner following; that is to say, that a quan-
 4 tity of land not exceeding one hundred and twenty sections,
 5 and included within a continuous length of twenty miles
 6 of said road, may be sold; and when the Governors of said
 7 State or States shall certify to the Secretary of the Interior
 8 that twenty continuous miles of said road is completed,
 9 then another like quantity of land hereby granted may
 10 be sold; and so from time to time, until said road is com-
 11 pleted; and if said road is not completed within ten years,
 12 no further sales shall be made, and the land unsold shall
 13 revert to the United States.

1 SECT. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That the Uni-
 2 ted States mail shall at all times be transported on the said
 3 road and branches, under the direction of the Post Office
 4 Department, at such price as Congress may by law direct.